

## FLEXIBLE FUNDING ASSESSMENT

<b>Applicant name:</b>	Fife Arts Co-operative	
<b>Application Reference number:</b>	G201001063	
<b>Amount Requested (Year 1/Year 2)</b>	£26,119	£31,234
<b>Officer's recommendation</b>		
<p>Summarise the key points of your assessment and draw out the strengths and weaknesses of the application taken together with any comments you have received from source evidence (portfolio of evidence/ internal / external consultation). Highlight any specific risks</p> <p><i>Note: The amount of information you provide here should be sufficient for the decision maker to reach a decision. As with all previous commentary boxes please do not exceed 250 words</i></p>		
<p><b>Comments:</b></p> <p>Fife Arts Co-operative (FAC) is a company limited by guarantee and a recognised charity established in March 2002. The organisation was awarded a Scottish Arts Council grant of £40,000 in November 2006 for a pARTners residency. This is a year-long residency due to complete in March 2008.</p> <p>The application is for support towards a two-year programme of commissioned artists' residencies – entitled Data and Paper – which builds on the pARTners residency referred to above. The business plan is light on detail in some areas, presenting more of an outline of specific areas of work without full explanation of how action may be achieved and without a detailed timeline. It does however demonstrate a clarity of vision and aims.</p> <p>Overall, artistic activity through the proposed residency appears of high quality, public engagement is core to the organisation's aims and a commitment to widening access is well expressed. The artists involved in the co-operative also have excellent track records. Potential audience reach is, however, fairly low.</p> <p>FAC is a young, developing organisation and it is this assessor's view that it does not yet meet the requirement for flexible funding of having a substantial record of achievement. As the application is solely related to the Data and Paper residency project there may be other avenues of support available through the visual arts department that, contextually, would be more appropriate to this programme of work and this organisation.</p> <p>Financial management appears reasonable but inconsistencies between the budget in the application form and the financial projections caused some difficulty in assessment and the lack of a balanced budget for 2009/10 generates some concern.</p> <p>Particular <b>strengths</b> can be summarised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership, education and community engagement are core to the organisation's objectives</li> <li>• Current service provider for Fife Council's Community Services division</li> <li>• Consultation and research are areas of activity embedded in the organisation's approach</li> </ul> <p>Weaknesses can be summarised as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inaccuracies in the summary budget in the application form</li> <li>• Lack of detail in the business plan</li> <li>• Organisation does not meet the basic requirement for flexible funding of having a substantial record of achievement</li> <li>• FAC is a young, developing organisation perhaps not yet in a position to meet the commitment and requirements of flexible funding</li> </ul>		

<b>Officer's overall priority recommendation</b>		<b>LOW</b>
Lead Officer signature:		Date: 31 Jan 2008 Revised: 20 March 2008
Print name:	Gwen McLeod	

## Stage 2: Heads of Departments prioritise applications with advice from Specialist Advisors

1. What were the strengths and weaknesses of the application identified by the Specialist Advisors? Please summarise their comments below. What were their ratings of the importance of the application in being supported?

### Comments:

The Specialist Advisors panel that considered this application included Alastair Snow, Helen Monaghan, Stephen Beddoe, Kirstie Skinner and Maureen Finn.

The panel commented:

The application appears to meet the Scottish Arts Council aims and it was noted that support for artist led activity is a priority for the Visual Arts Department. However, in reviewing the application the Advisors felt that it was less clear that it met the criteria for Flexible funding and that it had been developed as a project application. It was therefore decided to give the application an overall rating of Low.

2. Summarise the role of the organisation within the infrastructure of the sector. Assess to what extent the organisation's vision will contribute to the department's and to Scottish Arts Council's aims: (to fulfil artists' potential, to increase participation, to place creativity at the heart of learning)

### Comments:

#### **Fit with FXO criteria**

##### *Vision and leadership/role within sector/support to artists*

Fife Arts Co-operative is an open membership organisation that has a strong representation of locally based artists and craftspeople. One of its core purposes has been to generate new opportunities for local artists through the provision of studio space/ exhibition venue and the development of projects such as the current Partners residency.

##### *Engagement with the public/support for increasing participation/learning*

There is a strong commitment to working across the community to engage people with high quality arts projects. The current Partners residency and the residency project outlined in the application evidence this commitment.

##### *Good practice in governance and management*

The organisation has managed previous projects effectively and the board composition comprises a reasonable mix of skills including accountancy, business administration, personnel and management. Financial management is perhaps an area that could be strengthened given the confusion over the budgets presented with the application.

##### *Equal Opportunities/widening access*

The organisation is actively committed to ensuring equality of opportunity across its programmes.

*Other income of at least 25%*  
Budgets indicate this has been addressed.

***Fit with Departmental priorities***

The organisation has a strong artist led ethos and is well placed to meet the Department's aim: to develop opportunities that support artists. The organisation has been focussed on developing local / regional partnerships and projects and therefore does not yet meet the Department's aim: to promote nationally and internationally significant work.

***Fit with Scottish Arts Council's Aims***

As described above the organisation meets the aims of SAC in supporting artists, increasing participation and furthering opportunities in the arts through education.

3. Based on the lead officer's assessment and the subsequent meeting with Specialist advisors, please rate the application (High, medium, low) summarise your reasons for assessing the application as you have (drawing out the strengths and weaknesses of the organisation and highlighting any specific risks)

**Comments**

***Application Rating:*** Low; in light of the concerns raised in the application and the fact that the organisation has not yet established a significant track record

***Strengths of application:*** strong project focussed application that suggests potential to support artists and to increase participation in the arts.

***Weaknesses of application:*** there is little detail in some aspects of the plan and the application is focussed on the delivery of an identified project rather than on the wider development of the organisation and its programmes overall. This focus limits the extent to which application meets the criteria for the fund.

***Potential risks and suggested development areas:*** the organisation is at an early stage in its development and needs to establish a more significant track record in the successful delivery of a range of projects.

***Recommended level of support:*** The application is not recommended for support but the applicant would be encouraged to develop a dialogue with Officers in the Visual Arts Department about possibilities of funding for project activity.

4. Please comment on the geographic reach of the programme

**Comments:**

The applicant's overall aim is to encourage high quality arts in the community of Newburgh and beyond. Target audiences are identified at a local/ regional level.

**Head of Department's overall priority recommendation**

**LOW**

Head of Department's signature:

Date: 15/2/08

Print name:

Amanda Catto

Revised: 26/3/08

<b>Stage 3: Collective Heads of Department (Arts Development Managers) make recommendations to Directors (Acting Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive and Co-Directors of Arts)</b>		
1. Summarise the reasons why the final rating has been made.		
<b>Comments:</b> Weak overall fit with FXO criteria in the context of a highly competitive funding round. Not recommended for support.		
<b>Collective Heads of Department (Arts Development Managers) priority recommendation</b>		Low
Chair of Meeting signature:		Date: 2 April 2008
Print name:	Iain Munro	

<b>Stage 4: Directors make recommendations to Joint Board (strategic fit)</b>		
Record the Directors' recommendation and confirm the suggested level of support. If the recommendation differs from Stage 3, please summarise the reasons why.		
<b>Comments:</b> Agree with Stage 3 recommendation.		
<b>Directors recommendations to Joint Board</b>		Low
Acting Chief Executive signature:	Jim Tough	Date: 10 April 2008

<b>Stage 5: Joint Board's decisions</b>		
Record the Joint Board's recommendation. If the recommendation differs from Stage 4, please summarise the reasons why.		
<b>Comments:</b> The Joint Board accepts the Stage 4 recommendation.		
<b>Joint Board Final Decision</b>		REFUSE
Date: 24 April 2008	If approved for support, enter sum awarded	

**End of Assessment**